

12/12/18

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to express my concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

I currently serve as the Public Access Coordinator at Valley Shore Community Television in Westbrook, CT. Valley Shore Community Television (VSCTV) is the regional community access provider for the Connecticut towns of Durham, Haddam, Killingworth, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Old Saybrook, Westbrook, and Clinton. VSCTV was formed in 2013 to assume responsibility for the two PEG channels which were previously operated by Comcast. From day one, VSCTV has been committed to building community through media. From working with the six local high schools to educate students on the basics of TV production to covering local events, VSCTV has become a respected and trusted resource in our region. Residents of our nine towns can turn to VSCTV for their local high school sports, town meetings, news updates, public affairs, and entertainment. In addition to programming two cable channels, VSCTV also maintains a website with video on-demand for viewers to access content on their schedule.

At VSCTV, we have partnered with many local non-profit and civic organizations in our community to help inform residents of events, programs, and services. Among the shows produced at VSCTV include programs that spotlight local singer/songwriters, focus on public affairs, and provide first-hand accounts of our community's history. Our PEG channels are a vital resource for the citizens in our region to stay connected, informed, educated, and entertained with programming that might otherwise not be available on commercial media outlets.

This local presence enables the residents of our region to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Christopher Morgan
Public Access Coordinator
Valley Shore Community Television Inc.
Westbrook, CT

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner